

KATHERINE ANNE PORTER DAN TOKOH

MIRANDA DALAM CERITA “OLD MORTALITY”

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Abstract

Katherine Anne Porter's "Old Mortality" is the story of Miranda's growing up and flight from her family. It is divided into three approximately equal sections. In part I, dated 1885-1902, the readers are told of events in the life of the elders, especially of the family legend about the "lovely" Aunt Amy. At the end of this period, Miranda, the protagonist of the story, is eight years old and her sister, Maria, twelve. The second part of the story, set in 1904, after the death of the grandmother, contends with the first and negates it. The meeting with Uncle Gabriel brings home to the girls with shocking congruency the falsity of the family myth and its moral destructiveness. At this period, Miranda, now ten years old, is already partially separated from the family, "immured" in the New Orleans convent school from whose dullness she will eventually escape into marriage. In the final part, dated 1912, Miranda is eighteen, on her way to attend Uncle Gabriel's funeral. The readers learn that Miranda has run away from school and married. On the train, she meets Cousin Eva, the ugly duckling of her father's generation and they fall into conversation. In the end, when they reach their destination and are met by Harry, Miranda's father, Miranda feels once more cut off from her elders. It is clear that her father has not fully forgiven her for her elopement.

Kata kunci: Katherine Anne Porter, Fiction, old Mortality, protagonist